

even a little surgery, since he should aim to do this little well, and author and publisher should each be proud of their respective shares in its production.

ROSSELL PARK.

LEHRBUCH DER ALLGEMEINEN CHIRURGIE NACH DEM HEUTIGEN STANDPUNKTE DER WISSENSCHAFT. Bearbeitet von Prof. Dr. H. FISCHER, (Breslau). Stuttgart, Ferd. Enke, 1887. New York, G. E. Stechert.

TEXTBOOK OF GENERAL SURGERY, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT STATE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

In one large octavo volume of some 900 pages, the author has treated the entire subject of general surgery in such a manner, that the student or practitioner may readily find all that is important, and all that has of late been published in regard to any single question, or chapter in general surgery.

The reader is supposed to possess a fair knowledge of general pathology, but the special surgical pathology is, of course, everywhere given in detail. Where, in treating of any single subject, various conflicting statements present themselves, they have all been admitted and given their due consideration, and where a want of special investigation has made itself felt, this deficiency has been pointed out. For 21 years the author, (as he tells us in the preface), made the contents of this book the subject of special study, and three entire years, he adds, it took him merely to write it out.

From these data some idea of the amount of work contained in the book may be formed, and a glance at the comparatively large amount of matter and historical learning contained in the fine print of the notes readily sustains them.

The extensive use of numerals and letters to mark the divisions and subdivisions of the paragraphs, together with the printing of the headings in interspaced and capital types, gives the book an orderly appearance, and facilitates the finding of any given subject, by reducing the confusion incident to the handling of large amounts of matter.

An extended review of the various chapters cannot here be given; nor is it necessary to do so considering the objective manner in which the matter has been treated. Wherever the author deemed himself called upon to take sides in a question he has done so with the best judgment.

Occasionally the reader is made aware of the difficulties presenting

themselves to the writers of such books, as, for example, the question where to draw the line between the old and newer teachings on the same subject, and, as a consequence, the writer has frequently placed statements among the notes, which others would no doubt have given in the text.

We may, however, remark that the author personally still adheres to the typical Listerian dressing for wounds, with carbolic acid, although other methods, of course, receive due mention.

No attempt is made to distinguish clinically between septic and putrid infection, and the author appears to be inclined to disregard the distinction between sapræmia and septicæmia insisted upon by such experimenters as Gaffky. Much of the subject of the antiseptic treatment of wounds, etc., has been taken from the author's own previous works on the subject.

The chief feature of the book is its completeness, due to the immense diligence of the author in making himself familiar with the publications (easily accessible in Germany) on every subject. As such it will fill a valuable place in every medical library, and from its objective character and honest workmanship it may unhesitatingly be placed in the hands of students, a thing which cannot be said of most similar books.

The work is sparingly illustrated with wood-cuts, many of which are borrowed (with all due credit) from other publications.

W. W. VAN ARSDALE.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS. PART I. THE LIGATURE OF ARTIERES. A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE SURGICAL ANATOMY AND MODES OF TYING THE PRINCIPAL VESSELS. By SIR WILLIAM MAC CORMAC, Surgeon, and Lecturer on Surgery, St. Thomas's Hospital. London; Smith Elder & Co. 1885.

The ligature of arteries is not a subject which gives the systematic writer the same opportunities of original treatment which have of late years been furnished by other branches of our art. It is true that recent observations and recent papers have tended to re-open questions which have for years been regarded as absolutely settled *e. g.*, that of whether it is necessary or even desirable to tie a ligature tightly enough to divide the middle and inner coats of a vessel, and that of whether the femoral should be tied in Hunter's canal for popliteal aneurism. At St. Bartholomew's it is reported that a well known and distinguished conservative among surgeons, is now tying in the popliteal space itself for the last mentioned form of aneurism; and it is almost certain that in